



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Artifact Analysis Worksheet

(Adapted from the National Archives and Records Administration Artifact Analysis Worksheet)

Enduring Understanding: Archaeology is a systematic way to learn about past cultures.

Essential Question: What can artifacts tell us about the people who used them?

What Students Will Learn

- Objects found at archaeological sites can tell us something about how people lived.

What Students Will Do

- Make observations about the artifacts.
- Make inferences about the artifacts based on observations and previous knowledge.

Observation

1. What type of artifact is it?

Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, wood plastic, other material.

2. What qualities does it have?

Describe how it looks and feels: shape, color, texture, size, weight, movable parts, anything printed, stamped or written on it.

Inference

What uses did it serve?

1. Who might have used it?
2. What might it have been used for?
3. Where might it have been used?
4. When might it have been used?

What does the artifact tell us?

1. What does it tell us about technology of the time in which it was made and used?

2. What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it?

3. Can you name a similar item today?

If you could ask the maker or the user two questions, what would they be?